

REMARKS

I would like to thank Examiner Apanius and Examiner Marmor for conducting an interview on 3-7-2006 and giving me the opportunity to present hardware incorporating the present invention and to discuss some of the features that distinguish my invention over the cited prior art. For the record these points are summarized:

In regards to claim 1, the Examiner views Weinrib's (US patent No. 4,706,671) element 42 as a distal portion of the casing that is slidable and rotatable over the pilot wire. I would like to point out that in column 3 line 5+ Weinrib states that "...the wire member 20 is forced forwardly into the catheter and extends the tip 15 to pull the coils forwardly and to uncoil individual coils 42 of the coil section leaving a straight substantially linear shape for the coil section. In this straight small diameter insertion position, it is preferred that no coils 42 are present or visible as the coil section 30 is being guided through the living vessel to the location at which may be a clot or embolism material". Thus, while my casing is "slideable and rotatable" over the pilot wire for guidance through the vasculature (including bifurcations) during the insertion stage Weinrib's coils 42 do not exist at this stage (until wire 20 metamorphoses to coils). It is also worth noting that in Weinrib the pilot wire's distal end is normally attached to the coils via "solid tip 15".

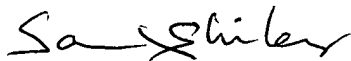
The Examiner further views Weinrib's "tubular catheter body 13 formed of a molded elastomeric material" as proximal tubular coupling. Weinrib further explains in column 3 line 61+ that "The catheter body 13 is tubular and is molded of a plastic or rubber-like material with two bores or passageways 40 and 46 therein." I would like to point out that this element is not practical for transmission of torque by choice of materials, and more importantly, because it is not connected in the wire.

To conclude I respectfully suggest that Weinrib's dual lumen rubbery catheter with two wires that with limited relative linear motion between them cause the distal section of one of them to become coiled in order to retrieve material is very different from my invention in its structure, elements and their interaction.

In regards to my issued US patent No. 5,135,531, while it discloses a flexible casing, it lacks the key feature of an exposed midsection. As to the Examiner's point that lowermost quarter turn of element 170 does not go entirely around the pilot wire and therefore is disposed alongside the pilot wire and that the pilot wire is *exposed* because the turns of element 170 have space in between the turns: first, this pertains to the distal rather than mid section of the casing, and second, it is not *exposed* as the term is used in the context of this application: Please note the re-written section 0048: "The midsection of the casing is thin and flexible, and is disposed alongside the pilot wire but it does not surround the pilot wire, leaving the pilot wire exposed (the term exposed as used in this application means that the pilot wire is accessible, when it is out of the sleeve, to gain hold of and keep stationary while the user moves the casing over it). At the same time the thin midsection can transmit force from the coupling to the distal portion of the casing (needed to advance the casing over the pilot wire) when both the pilot wire and casing are in the sleeve as it contains the midsection's tendency to buckle under the compressive load."

I believe the amendments to the specification (where erroneous reference characters have been corrected and missing reference characters have been added) and to the claim (where informalities have been corrected; no amendment is made to overcome the prior art) and above remarks to place this application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel Shiber

365 Keamey Circle

Manchester, NH 03104

Ph (603) 644 1773